

BILL WILLINGHAM • STEVE LEIALOHA

F A B L E S



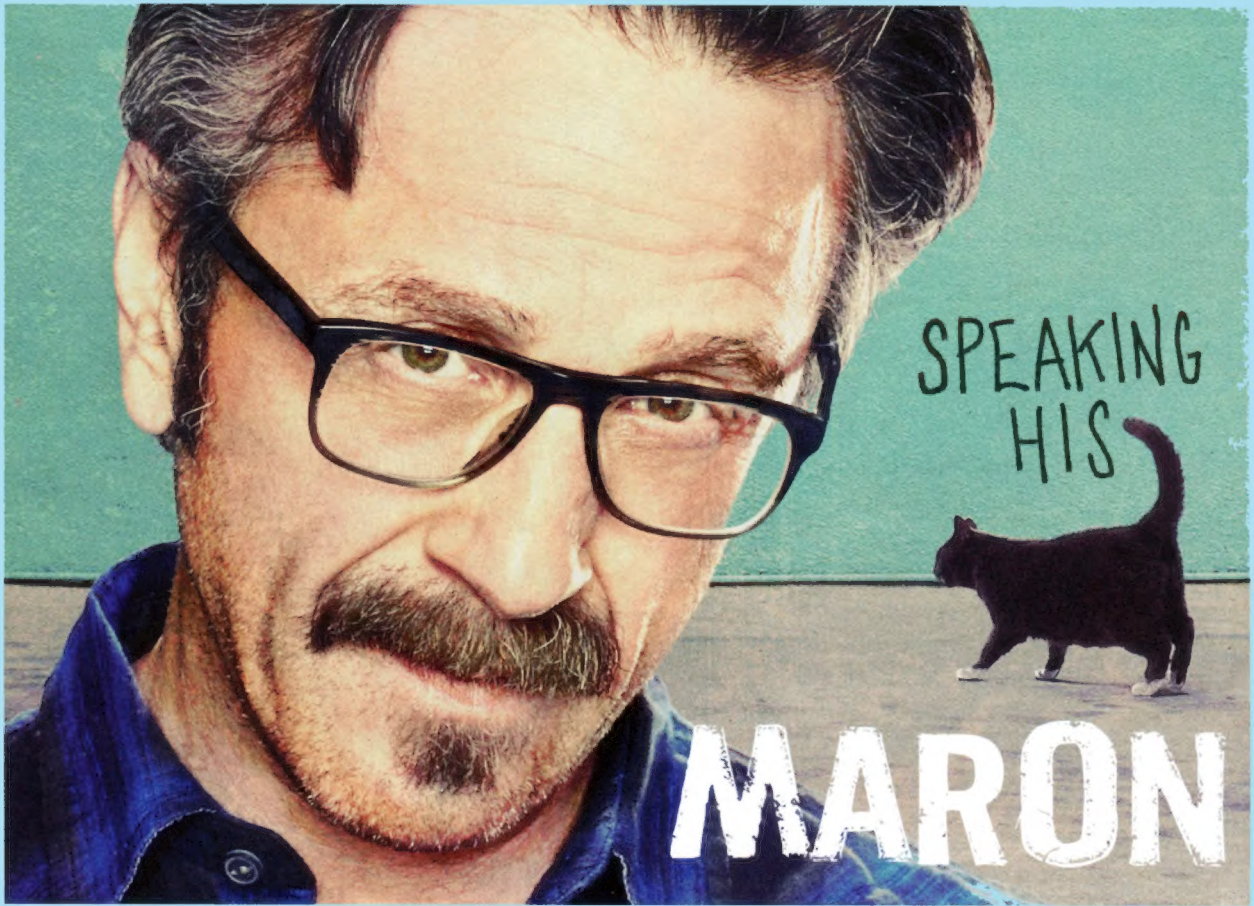
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SPEAKING
HIS

MARON

OUT OF
THEIRS

COMEDY
BANG! BANG!

**BLOWING MINDS
BACK-TO-BACK
THURSDAYS 10P
STARTS MAY 8TH**

IFC
ALWAYS ON
SLIGHTLY OFF

WITH NO BODY TO BURY,
THEY PILED A CAIRN OF
STONES.



PUSS IN
BOOTS WAS A
NOBLE CAT OF
WAR, A POET AND
MINSTREL.

A
MADCAT,
WHETHER
WIELDING
FIDDLE OR
RAPIER.

The Boys in the Band

In which our tale of bladed adventure and tartan noir continues.

**Part
2 of 2**

**Bill
Willingham**
writer/creator

**Steve
Leialoha**
artist

**Lee
Loughridge**
colors

**Todd
Klein**
letters

**Nimit
Malavia**
cover

**Sara
Miller**
asst. ed.

**Shelly
Bond**
editor



HE NEVER MUCH
LIKED THAT NAME, PUSS IN
BOOTS. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT
HE TOLD ME ONCE.

HE THOUGHT THE
TITLE DIDN'T CALL ENOUGH
ATTENTION TO HIS CHAPEAU.
PROBABLY WHY HE DIDN'T
EVEN BRING HIS BOOTS
THIS TIME.



NO,
JOE, I DON'T THINK
SO. HE *HAD* HIS BOOTS
BUT PACKED THEM, BECAUSE
HE DIDN'T WANT THE MUD TO
SPOIL THEIR NEW
SHINE.

STILL, HE
DIDN'T LIKE THE
NAME. I HEARD HE
WANTED TO BE CALLED
*THE MASKED
CAT.*



WHY? HE NEVER
WORE A MASK. I MEAN, WHAT
COULD HE HAVE HOPED TO
DISGUISE?

HOPING TO
BE CONFUSED WITH
ALL THE *OTHER*
SWASHBUCKLING
TALKING CATS?

WHY NOT
PUSS WITH VIOLIN?
OR EVEN PUSS WITH
SWORD? HE WAS
DAMN *GOOD* WITH
THAT STICKER.





LONG PAST THE WITCHING HOUR...

IF THE LEGENDS ARE SO ANCIENT, THEN "AGES IN THE FUTURE" COULD BE RIGHT NOW.



I TAKE IT YOU'RE THE BROKEN WARYMAN, OR SOME SUCH?

YOU *MUST* BE, OTHERWISE HE MIGHT BE PISSED TO FIND YOU STINKING UP HIS CROSS-ROADS.



THIS IS A NIGHT OF MOMENT AND *PORTENT*. NOT A TIME FOR MOCKERY.

I KNOW, I KNOW.

BUT I'VE BEEN A *SNOTTY AMERICAN* FOR CENTURIES.



IT'S OUR WAY!





YEAH, I KNOW, EXCEPT BY...

DID YOU FIGURE OUT THE TWIST YET?

HUH?



SPEAK SENSE, WOMAN, IN YOUR DYING BREATHS.

I'VE BEEN EXPOSED TO DECADES OF BADLY WRITTEN TELEVISION!

TRAINED BY A LEGION OF HACKS TO ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE OBVIOUS TWIST!



WE SHOULD PACK QUICKLY AND--

HEY! WHERE'S BRIAR ROSE?

UH OH.

THE
doom
PATROL
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JULY 2014



THAT DAMNED PIG-HEADED--!

I KNOW WHAT SHE'S UP TO!

WAS THAT A SHOT?

THAT WAS A SHOT!



THE TWIST, MR. PUTZALOT, IS I AM NO MAN.

GET IT? NO MAN?

BRIAR ROSE!



I GUESS YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN FOR NOT FIGURING OUT THE OBVIOUS.

IN THIS BACKWARDS LAND, SANS MASS COMMUNICATION, IT PROBABLY ISN'T EVEN A WORN-OUT OLD CLICHÉ YET.

STIEG LARSSON'S THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE

A GRAPHIC NOVEL ADAPTATION OF THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL

Written by

DENISEMINA

Illustrated by

ANDREAMUTTI

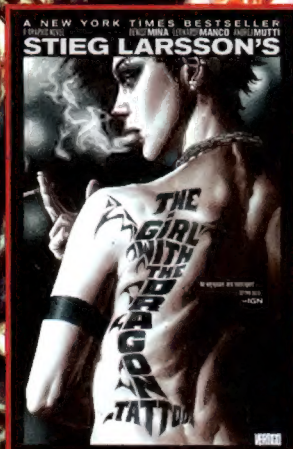
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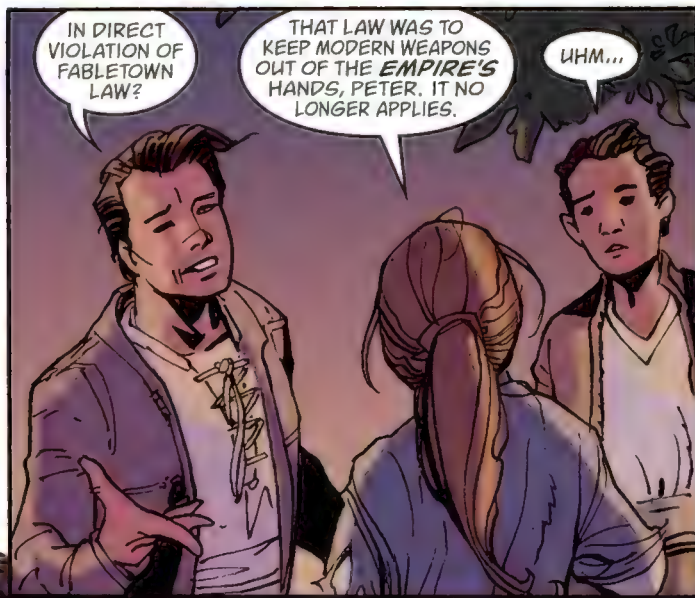
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THEY'VE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS SINCE I WAS LAST HERE.

YEAH, THAT'S GOING TO BE QUITE A NUT TO CRACK.

WHAT'S OUR PLAN?

WELL, REVIEWING OUR ASSETS, WE DON'T HAVE ARTILLERY, NOR ENOUGH GRENADES.

AND SINCE WE ALSO LACK A WHEEL-BARROW AND HOLOCAUST CLOAK...

VERY FUNNY, PETE.

IT'S STILL DAYTIME. WE HAVE SURPRISE. LET'S JUST RUN DOWN THERE.

AND SO THEY DO.

SO FAR SO GOOD.

EASY TO ENTER A FORT THAT'S STILL BEING BUILT, SEAMUS.

WHERE TO FIND THE WITCH, THOUGH?

IN THE MOVIES THE MAIN VILLAIN'S NEVER IN THE BASEMENT. HE'S ALWAYS IN THE TOWER.

SO... CHARGE!

OH, LOOK.
AN INVASION OF THREE--NO, **FOUR** LIGHTLY ARMED WARRIORS.
WHAT-
EVER SHALL I DO?



COME UP AND PLAY AT **SWORDS AND SPELLS**, HONORED GUESTS.
GIVE ME SPORT ENOUGH TODAY AND I **MAY** KEEP ONE OF YOU FOR MY ZOO!



OKAY, OUR MISSION'S PRETTY BASIC HERE.
PRESS ON AS FAR AS WE CAN.

SOUNDS LIKE A RIGHT SPIFFY PLAN.



ATTACK FROM THE FRONT!

ONE FROM BEHIND AS WELL!

GARRR



KEEP GOING, PETER!

I'LL KEEP THE **BACK DOOR** CLOSED AS LONG AS I CAN!

GARRR

GARRR

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JOHNSON



I SEE
WHAT YOU DID,
WITCH!

POPPING
AROUND, FROM ONE
TOWER TO ANOTHER,
ALL *MAGIC* AND
SHIT!



ANOTHER
ONE?

CAN'T HIDE
FOREVER,
THOUGH!



FIVE
DEAD HEROES,
THEN.

SURE,
BUT *THIS*
DEAD ONE
BITES!



HERE!

A LITTLE
GIFT FROM THE
FUTURE!

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JOE?
JOE HAD THE
GRENADES!

CAN'T
STOP NOW,
BRIAR!



BUT HER
SPELLS HAVE
STOPPED.



I THINK
JOE DID
IT!

I THINK
HE GOT
HER!



BUT
AT WHAT
COST?

DON'T
COME OVER
HERE, MISS.

IT'S NOT
PRETTY.



JOE!

WAIT!

SHE'S NOT DEAD! THERE SHE IS!

UHGNNNN!



YES, NOT DEAD. NOT QUITE.

DESPITE THE YOUNG WARRIOR'S MAGIC DEVICE!



I CAN STILL STRIKE!

REMEMBER THE FALLBACK PLAN?

FALL BACK!



HURRY!

THE HOUNDS AREN'T AFFECTED BY HER BLASTS, AND THEY'RE CATCHING UP!

WE CAN'T TAKE THIS FOR LONG!

A MIRACLE WOULD HELP RIGHT NOW!

GARRR GARRR



NO SOONER ASKED
THAN ANSWERED,
DEAR LADY.

WHAT
NOW?



GIANTS?

BUT YOU WERE
PACIFIED!



HELLO,
FOLKS. DID
YOU MISS
ME?

PUSS?

BUT YOU
DIED!



HARDLY.

DIDN'T YOU
EVER HEAR "YOU
CAN'T KEEP A GOOD
CAT DOWN"?



HUZZAH!

NOW, LET'S
BE ABOUT THE
SACRED BUSINESS
OF *KILLING*
CANINES!



JOE'S
BEYOND HELP
NOW.

WE NEED
TO GET BACK IN
THE FIGHT.



THINK A
FEW GIANTS WILL
HELP?



JUST MORE
MEAT TO FEED TO
MY DOGS!



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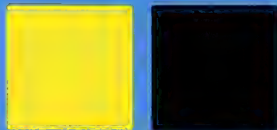
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UH,
HELLO.

I'M WITH
THE CAT. YOU GENTLE
GIANTS CAN **SEE** THAT,
RIGHT?

WE'RE
ALLIES
HERE.

DID I
EVER TELL YOU
HOW MUCH I LIKE
SHEEP?

STILL SOME
FIGHT IN HER
DOGS!

LOSING
MORALE THOUGH,
IN THE SHADOW
OF THE GIANTS.

FINISH
IT THEN!

I AGREE!

PRESS ON!

EVEN **FRESH**
GREEN DOGS HAVE
NO REASON TO
LIVE!



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THIS ISN'T
FAIR!
I
TAMED
YOU!



YOU
CAN'T TURN
ON ME!

YOU'RE
SIMPLETONS!
TENDERS OF
SHEEP!



I WOULDN'T
HAVE DESTROYED
YOU FOR YEARS
TO COME!

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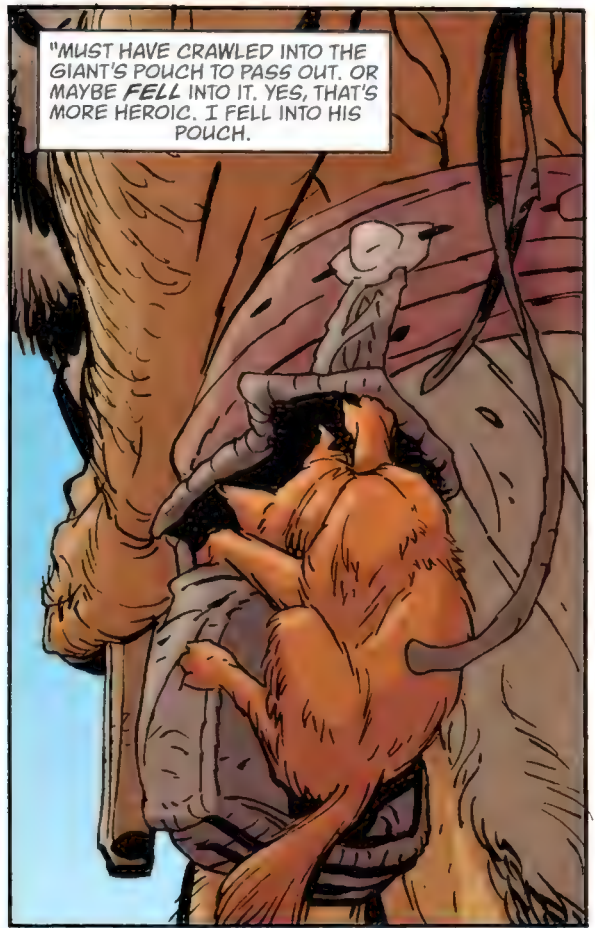
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LATER...

NO,
I NEVER
DIED.

I *DID*
GET WALLOPED
PRETTY GOOD,
THOUGH.



"MUST HAVE CRAWLED INTO THE
GIANT'S POUCH TO PASS OUT. OR
MAYBE *FELL* INTO IT. YES, THAT'S
MORE HEROIC. I FELL INTO HIS
POUCH.



"UP IN THEIR VILLAGE, I PLYED THEM WITH MY
SILKEN TONGUE. ONCE THEY DECIDED NOT
TO EAT ME, THEY BEGAN TO *LISTEN*.



"IT WAS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE WITCH
PLANNED TO TAX THEIR *LAMBS* THAT
TURNED THEM AROUND. WE'LL ASSUME
I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT TIDBIT, OKAY?"

"IN ANY CASE, *ALLIANCES*
WERE FORMED, AND WE SET
OFF TO THE DRAMATIC RESCUE."



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FROM THE PAGES OF THE SANDMAN

DEAD BOY DETECTIVES

VOL 1: SCHOOLBOY TERRORS

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TOBY LITT

Art by
**MARK
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A BIT LATER...

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT EXIT.

I GUESS WE'LL BE HEADING HOME SOON.

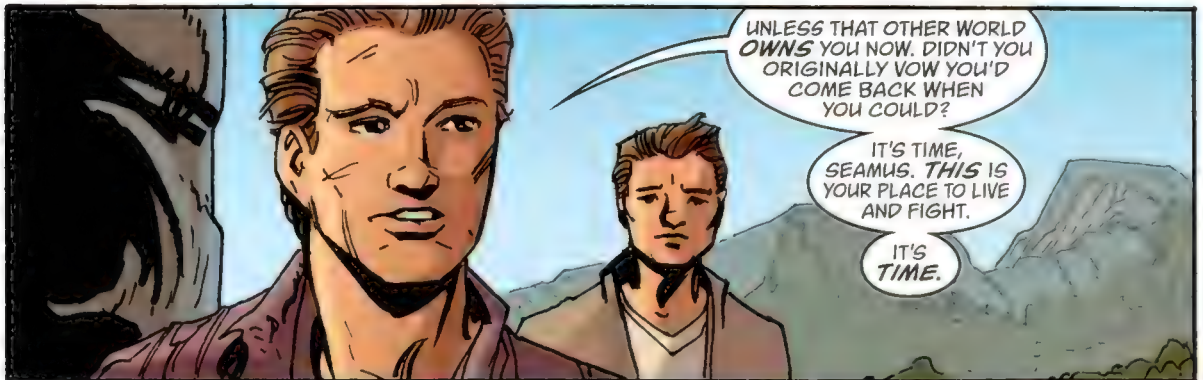
WHY?



WHY? BECAUSE THE BATTLE'S DONE. TRUE WARRIORS GO HOME WHEN THE FIGHTING'S DONE.

I MEAN, WHY GO? YOU ARE HOME, AT LONG LAST.

BUT...?



UNLESS THAT OTHER WORLD OWNS YOU NOW. DIDN'T YOU ORIGINALLY VOW YOU'D COME BACK WHEN YOU COULD?

IT'S TIME, SEAMUS. THIS IS YOUR PLACE TO LIVE AND FIGHT.

IT'S TIME.

AND THAT'S HOW FABLETOWN WAS ULTIMATELY DESTROYED.

BY THE IDEA OF WHY IT WAS CREATED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

TO LEAVE SOMEDAY, WHEN THEY COULD ALL GO HOME.



I'LL MISS THEM.

WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

I DOUBT IT. LIKE DANNY SAID, IT'S TIME. AND THE PIPES OF A HUNDRED SCATTERED WORLDS ARE CALLING US.

NEXT: THE LEAVE-TAKING BEGINS.

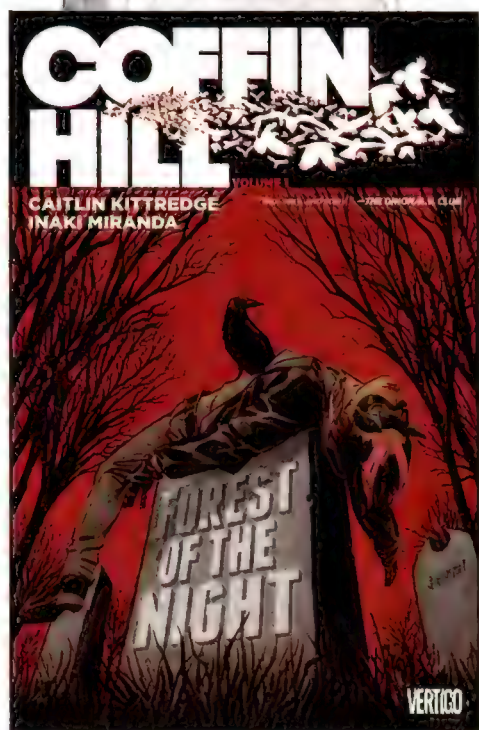
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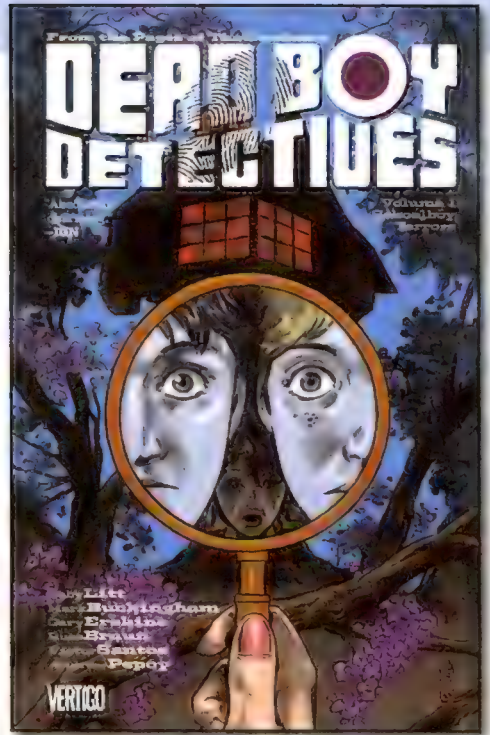
This year, VERTIGO is releasing a new line of Trade Paperbacks designed to make you salivate. These beauties, for only \$9.99, collect the first arc of our newest series the month after the last issue comes out. That's right, you no longer have to wait to get your hands on your favorite trade. Not only are they great for reliving memorable scenes before the second arc comes out (or catching up if you weren't already reading them), but they're also packed with awesome sketches and design pages, and at \$9.99 the price point is perfection. Lastly, they're available EVERYWHERE! Yup - comic shops, book stores, and digitally. There's literally no reason not to add it to your collection - or start one today!

Here's a sneak peek at the first rollout of these trades: FBP, HINTERKIND and COFFIN HILL are in stores May 14th, and DEAD BOY DETECTIVES is in stores June 25th with more to come throughout 2014!

Enjoy!

- Sara Miller, Assistant Editor





GRAPHIC CONTENT

THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE

I said yes. A blithe yes. Yeah, I'd love to do that. I had no idea what, or how, I was going to adapt Stieg Larsson's massive Millennium trilogy into graphic novels. I also had no idea how much fun it would be, or how sore my hands would get. A graphic novel script of 260 pages comes in at the same word count as a novel. Ergonomic keyboard, my arse.

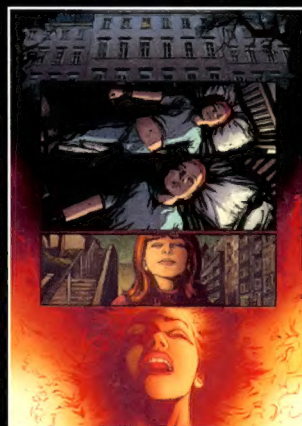
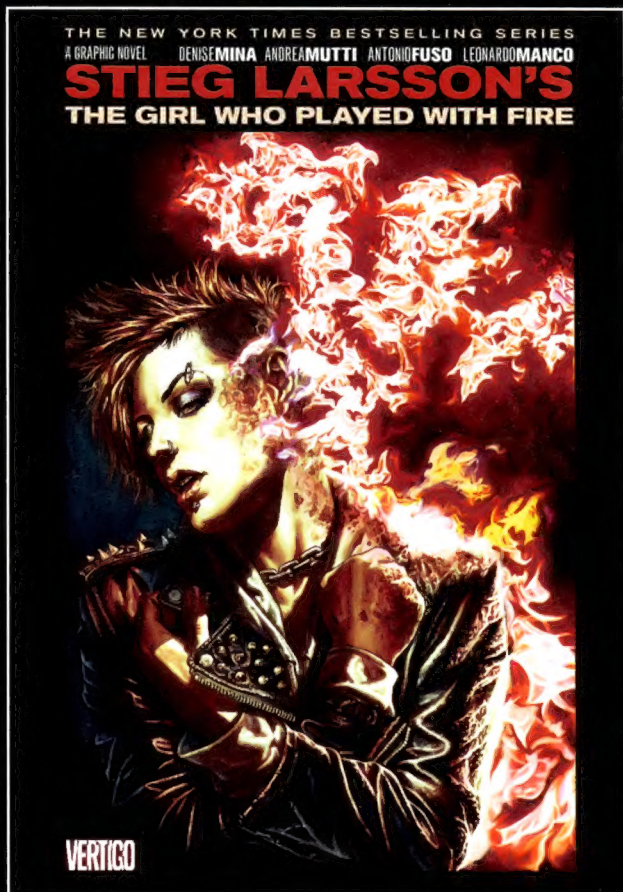
It has been total geek joy: taking a forensic approach to a giant sprawling twenty thousand pages of prose and make up fifteen books of notes, trying to boil it down into narrative arcs, dead ends, characterization, political pointers. Five different coloured pens - five! Calligraphic nibs, natch, for the texture in the penmanship - fat for action, thin for exposition, full calligraphic nib for conclusions. And then to try, try to make it a visual story that chimes with Larsson's prose original. Graphic story telling is uniquely suited to Larsson's style because his stories are so textual, and the artists, Antonio Fusco, Leo Manco and Andrea Mutti, understand the depth and nuances perfectly. They've done amazing work on these books, adding the sort of intensity Larsson would have loved.

Larsson was a deeply political writer who strove to wrap up a lot of uncomfortable social truths in high-speed narrative trajectory. His political points are as varied as shareholder payments crippling newspapers to domestic violence as a form of social rape, with the medicalization of political outliers and everything in between. He's a thrilling writer.

In *THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE* all his best qualities come to a head. State vs. the individual, personal vs. the political and all those unexpected twists, shots, attacks and turns in the story. The damn thing stays great until the very, very last page.

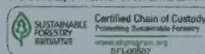
- Denise Mina, Writer

THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE,
in stores May 28, 2014



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